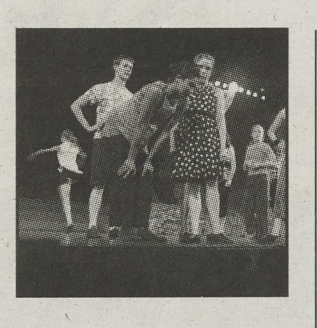
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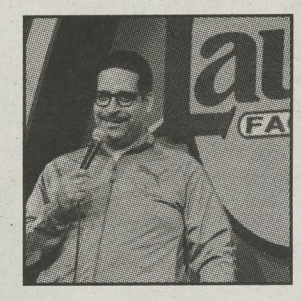
SUMMER 49ER



So Cal Dance Invitational features CSULB dancers.



OUR VIEW: Who will win the 2014 World Cup?



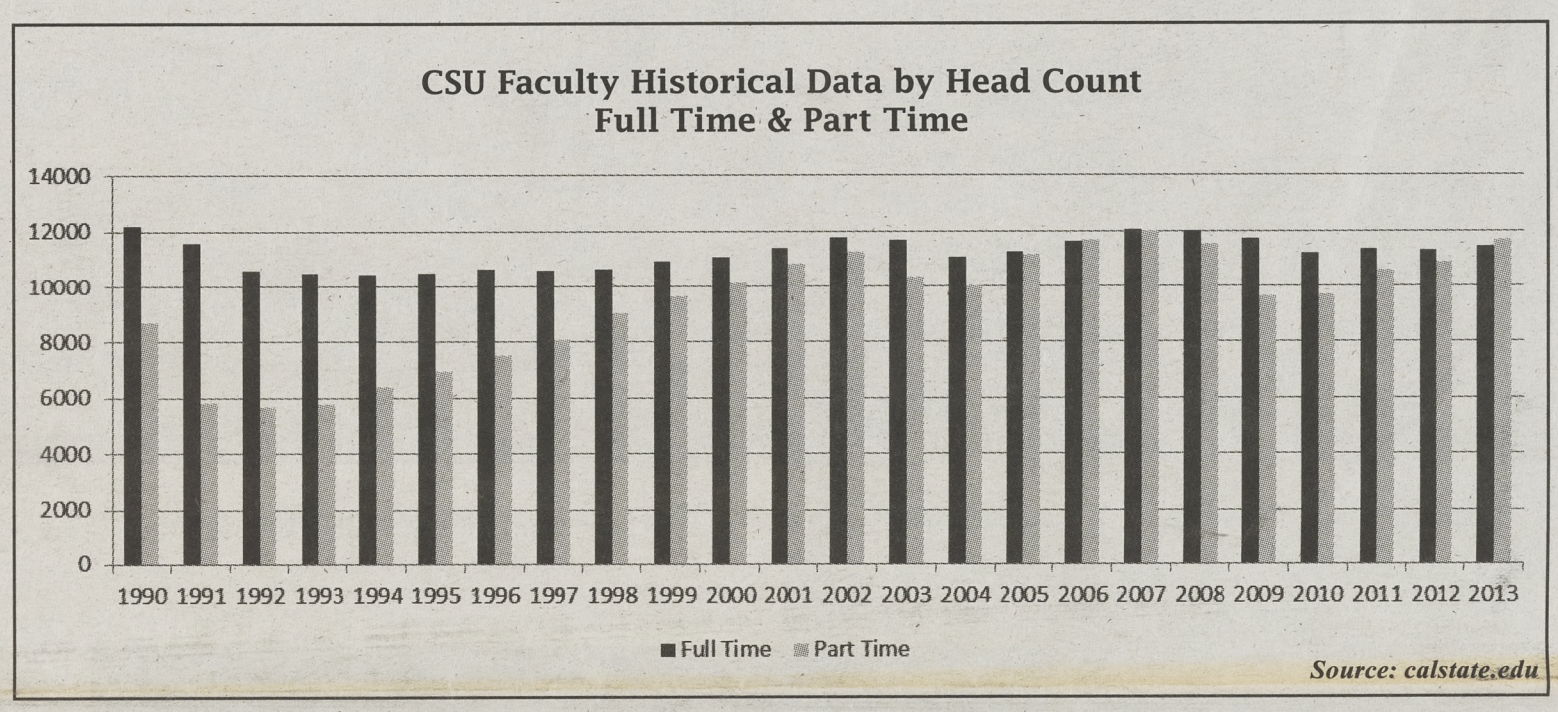
Workaholics actor comes to Long Beach Laugh Factory.

Vol. LIX, Issue 742 www.Daily49er.com Thursday, June 26, 2014

CSU system to hire more tenure track faculty

The increase of about 700 new faculty members would help address the bottleneck courses.

By Priscella Vega
Print Director



Source: calstate.edu

With bottleneck courses dragging down graduation rates, the California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White encouraged the CSU system to hire roughly 700 faculty members to help improve student achievement and graduation rates, said CSU spokesman Erik Fallis.

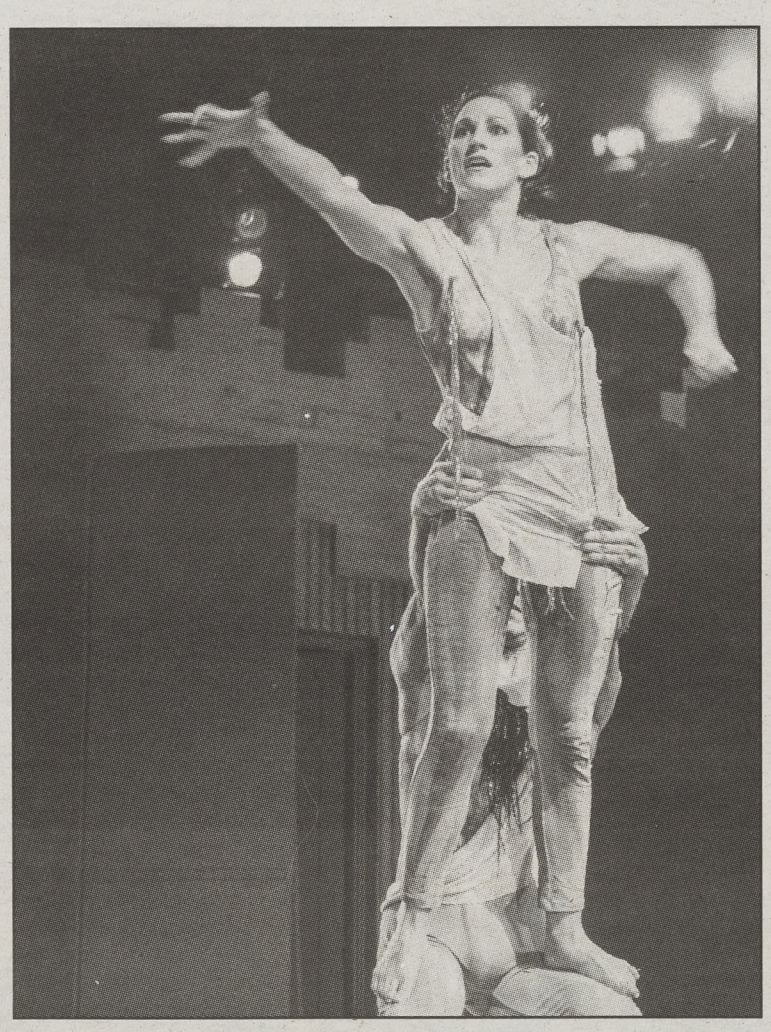
"The chancellor gave an address back in January, and one of the major initiatives was to hire tenure track faculty members," Fallis said. "So the campus identifies where they need to bolster and what the turn over is."

Bottleneck courses — classes where students do not perform well and either fail or withdraw from class, ultimately dragging down graduation rates — are a reason for an increase in faculty hires. At last year's CSU Board of Trustees meeting on September 24, the issue of bottleneck courses was addressed.

As a result, in the 2013-14 budget proposal, $125 million was allocated specifically for the CSU system with $10 million directed toward online learning. At the BOT meeting, Brown said he thought technology would help in classrooms.

Fallis said that hiring more tenure track faculty is another part of continuing to help students in the CSU system while reducing the budget and helping enrollment grow.

See *Faculty*, Page 3



Leslie Gonzalez | Daily 49er

So Cal Dance Invitationals

CSULB dance department chair Andy Vaca brought dancers to the Ford Amphitheater in Hollywood last Friday. (See page 3)

World Cup fever spreads to CSULB

Students enthusiastic about upcoming soccer games.

By Jesus Gonzalez
Diversions Editor



Ruben Diaz | Daily 49er

CSULB students sit in the Nugget watching the 2014 World Cup.

Let's get the ball rolling; the rest of the world has. The 2014 FIFA World Cup has taken over the sports buzz like it usually does every four years, and many student are excited to support many teams, especially the United States and Mexico.

Rogelio Flores, a CSULB graduate student who is studying geographic information systems, said he likes the competitiveness of the games, but watching them is sometimes problematic, especially as a student.

"It's hard to concentrate on a thesis when the World Cup is on," Flores said. "It's hard to concentrate on anything when the games are on since they only happen every four years, and every game is good. Every team is giving everything they've got, and as a soccer fan, it's difficult to get anything done when this is going on."

Flores is Mexican and feels that soccer is an important part of the culture and family. However, he is rooting for both the United States and Mexico.

Evelia Castro-Marroquin, a CSULB graduate student who is also studying geographic information systems, enjoys the enthusiasm many fan bases have, especially Mexico's, even though she is from El Salvador.

"I think if you can be married with a Mexican, you can put aside the whole soccer thing," Castro-Marroquin said. "I'm really enthusiastic about the U.S. becoming a better team as time goes by. They're a young team, and as soccer grows in the United States, they only get better players, more diverse players."

She said she would be glad with any team from the Americas to take the cup, but would be disappointed to see a European team win.

For some students on campus, it's difficult to watch the games, but they find a way.

"I'll watch them on my computer if I'm in class," said Bradley Tirador, an exercise science, 5th year student. "It's hard to watch, depends on whether or not I'm in class, [but] you can watch them all online, which is sweet, for free."

Other students, like 3rd year mechatronics engineering major Kareem Altamimi, haven't been having as much trouble keeping updated in class.

See *World Cup*, Page 3



RUBEN DIAZ | DAILY 49ER

Many ducks crowd the area around the pond at El Dorado Park. Long Beach City Council worries about insufficient signs to prevent people from feeding these ducks.

A Feeding Frenzy

After concerns were raised about feeding ducks human-food, banners were posted around El Dorado park to discourage visitors from feeding the birds.

BY RUBEN DIAZ
Staff Writer

After learning that birds may contract diseases from eating human food, the city of Long Beach now prohibits visitors from feeding the wildlife, particularly in El Dorado Park.

In a city council meeting on June 17, 5th district Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske discussed how birds play a role in the environment, and how people have a responsibility to maintain their existence.

The Winged Wonders Banner Project, a joint effort between Schipske and the 5th District Lakes, Ponds and Wetlands Taskforce to support birdlife, focused on wildlife in the El Dorado Park Duck Pond.

"I... traditionally thought it was okay to take bread and feed ducks," Schipske said during the meeting. "What we found in the numerous years of research we did was that the food that we use as humans hurts the wildlife."

To prevent people from feeding birds human food, banners with information were posted around the park, such as images of the 22 bird species living in the park, their calls and their diets.

"The focus of this project was to try to figure out a way to educate the public about the importance of the birds and the wildlife that live in the duck pond," Schipske said.



JESUS AMBROSIO GANZALEZ | DAILY 49ER

A CSULB campus duck swims in the fountain at Brotman Hall .

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, a non-profit organization that studies and conserves birds, also contributed to the cause by giving Long Beach the rights to use the information that is currently on the banners. The organization provided sounds of different ducks that people could listen to on their cellphone by calling a number located on a banner if they want to familiarize bird songs.

At the meeting, Schipske also showed a video clip showing wildlife, signs that were put up and her interviewing El Dorado Audubon Society member Mary Parsell.

"One thing that we did early is take a census to keep track of what birds are here," Parsell said. "And really, we have birds that are here year-round, and we have migratory birds that come through."

Parsell then mentioned that birds should be left to eat the plants and animals they find in the grass or water. Parsell said she is opposes feeding bread to the birds.

"I think they can't digest it," Parsell said. "It makes them sick basically."

While people such as Parsell contributed to this project, not everyone thinks that this project will end human food distribution to birds.

"I do think it would work for the most part, but not completely because some people are careless," junior biology major Gisell Acuna said.

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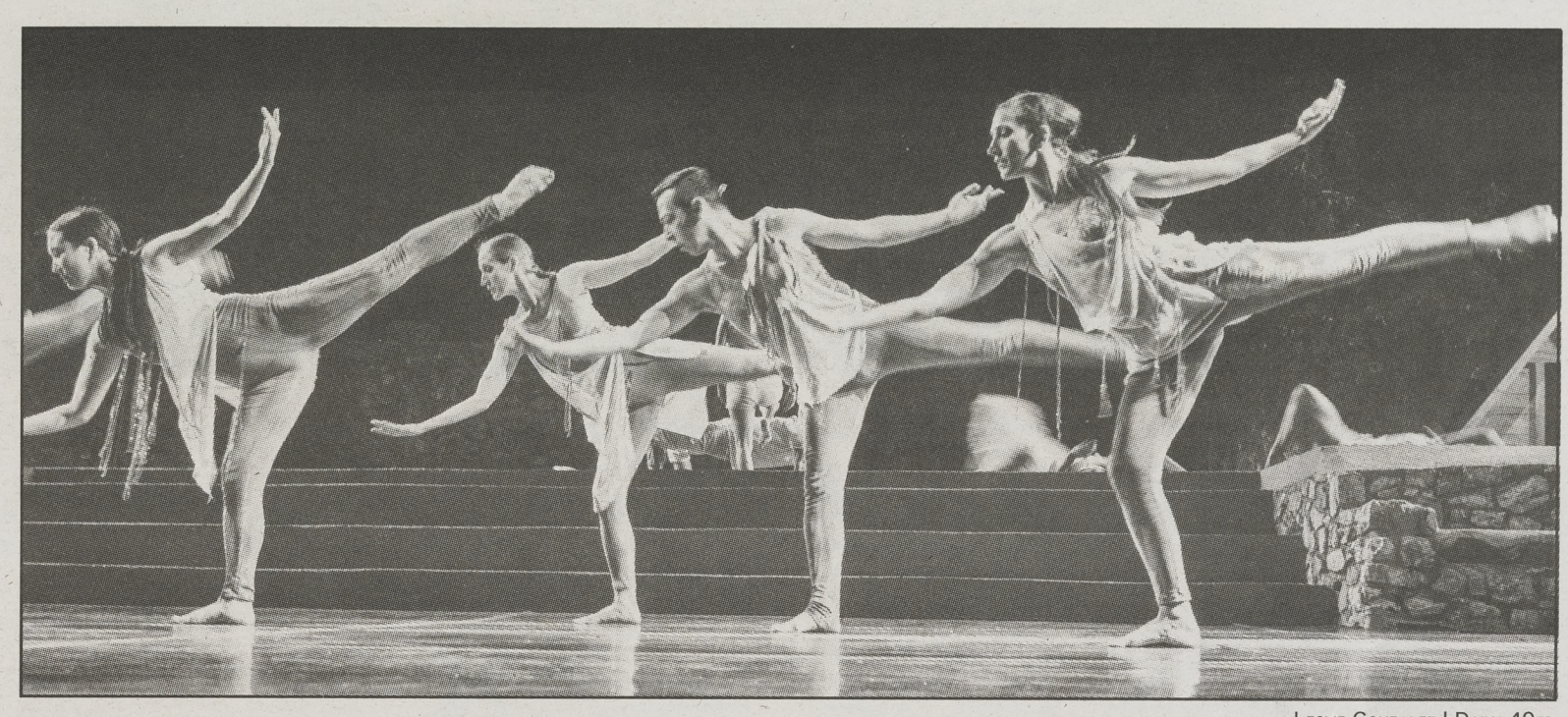
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Long Beach dancers took Hollywood stage by storm

The So Cal Dance Invitational ended with a grand finale from CSULB dancers.



LESLIE GONZALEZ | DAILY 49ER

The So Cal Dance Invitational filled the Ford Amphitheater's outdoor stage with interpretive, theatrical and jazz performances.

BY PAIGE PELONIS
Editor-in-Chief

Pink Martini music, theatrical jazz dancing and hipster-style costumes made the Cal State Long Beach dance department proud in the So Cal Dance Invitational last Friday.

Andy Vaca, the chair of the dance department, choreographed a lively dance piece that was the perfect finale for a top-notch show.

Vaca filled the outdoor stage at the Ford Amphitheater in Hollywood with CSULB graduates, and three current students, who are all performers in Vaca's dance company, Jazzworks-Long Beach.

According to Vaca, this Pink Martini-jazz creation was created to fit the various themes of some of the CSU general education categories. He said he was aiming for a dance that featured "a group of people going through life together."

This dance was originally created for the 20th anniversary of the CSULB Dance Center, and was performed by all CSULB students in the 2014 spring semester show. For Friday's show, however, Vaca re-created this piece and taught it to his Jazzworks performers.

Before the show, Vaca said he was excited to see his masterpiece take life at the Hollywood venue.

"The space is big, and open, and sometimes you see real live animals crawling around in the trees behind the dancers," Vaca said, explaining the new life elements he said he hoped to see in his dancers.

Other dance companies at the show included Francisco Gella's COLABO Youth Dance Collective, which is affiliated with the NUEVO School of Contemporary Dance in Chino, Ca. and the Invertigo Dance Theater, from Los Angeles.

The L.A. Contemporary Dance Company, based in Downtown Los Angeles, also made an appearance in the show, as well as the Lula Washington Dance Theatre, a 10-member modern dance company centered in South Los Angeles.

The Nannette Brodie Dance Theatre, which presented its first performance in 1986, was also among the performing companies, according the So Cal Dance Invitational website.

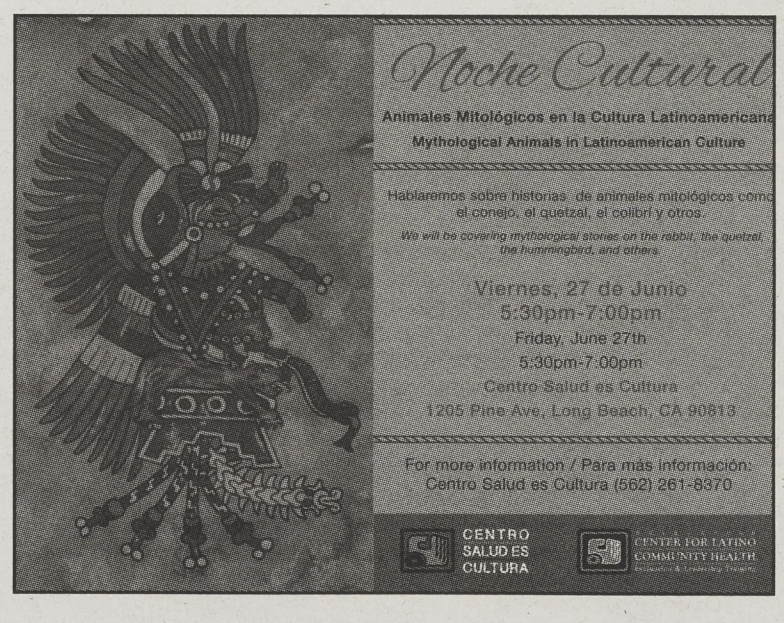
Each company performed one lengthy, ensemble piece, and the music and style of each ranged from interpretive, dramatic moments, to an entire dance that literally featured all women in tennis gear with rackets, dancing an incredibly heated tennis match.

Overall, the show was a hit. The audience soaked in the music for approximately an hour and a half, and Vaca's closing number was an exciting send off for any Long Beach audience members heading home.



Andy Vaca (bottom right) rehearses with Jazzworks dancers.

CSULB Latino cultural events coming up this week



Arts, crafts and Mayan students will provide fun, educational evenings.

BY PAIGE PELONIS
Editor-in-Chief

It may be summer time, but the National Council of La Raza-California State University, Long Beach Center for Latino Community Health, Evaluation and Leadership Training is not taking a break from bringing culture to Long Beach.

On Friday, June 28, the center will host "Noche cultural," an evening of reading and learning about various mythological creatures in Latin American culture. The night will begin at 5:30 p.m., and will wrap up at 7:00 p.m.

Creatures for discussion will include, but not be limited to, "the rabbit, the quetzal and the hummingbird," according the NCLR website. After the reading, any guests who bring their small children with them will have an opportunity to participate in relevant arts and crafts.

According to NCLR Research Coordinator Erika Bonilla, the event on Friday is part of a monthly cultural series. On the last Friday of every month, the NCLR aims to provide a meaningful, cultural evening to Long Beach residents.

The NCLR had originally planned to host a Mayan lecture presentation on Friday evening as well but the event was moved to July 2. At 10:30 a.m. until noon, students from Universidad Intercultural Maya de Quintana Roo will present on the subject of "traditional Mayan healing practices."

The NCLR was established in 2005 to "support and create diverse community health initiatives," according to its website. In commitment to this mission, the CSULB Centro Salud es Cultura was established in downtown Long Beach.

Both of the aforementioned events will take place at CSULB satellite office, located at 1205 Pine Avenue, Suite 102. Contact the NCLR office for more information, at nclr.csulb@

FACULTY

Continued from Page 1

With about 700 faculty members aimed for hire, each university will hire faculty based on programs. For example, Fallis said Cal State Fresno may focus on agriculture and hire faculty within that field.

Cal State Dominguez Hills has roughly 25 new faculty members coming to campus this fall, and plans to bring in about 32 more in the next year, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Cal Poly San Luis Obispo hired roughly 70 faculty members and plans to hire an additional 30, according to the LA Times.

Cal State Long Beach has about 60 new professors within the accounting and nursing programs, Interim Provost David Dowell said to the LA Times.

Currently, there are CSUs that have already hired faculty; however, Fallis said that because the CSU's are in charge of hiring, there would not be a set number until it is officially measured.

Fallis said the 700-faculty number is based on a snapshot when they inquired about the CSU system.

"We won't know which campuses have done majority of the hiring until much later," Fallis said. "We totaled them up informally — not every single position will be filled because we won't find the candidate for the appropriate position.

WORLD CUP

Continued from Page 1

"I am taking a physics class, it's a four unit class. It takes a lot of your time being in class," said Altamimi. "My lab instructor is a really cool person. Whenever there is game and we have a lab, he puts the games on us for us. So I don't miss the games."

The World Cup only happens once every four years, so the excitement is understandable.

"There is no word, you can just see the game without [audio], but whenever there is a goal," Kareem said. "People will be screaming in the middle of class."

Many teams are participating in the Cup, and CSULB favorites have upcoming games.

United States and Germany will face off today at 9 a.m., and Mexico will play the Netherlands on Sunday, June 29 at 9 a.m.



FACEBOOK

The 2014 World Cup is underway, and the Daily 49er is deciding which team to support between USA and Mexico.

FIFA World Cup, 2014: Who are you rooting for, USA or Mexico?

"One of the things that I like about Mexico is that they have a lot of fans and their fans are diehard and they go all the way to Brazil, they went to Africa... They always have the most fans in the stands so I think I really like seeing that and seeing the culture that they bring to the game."

— Evelia A. Castro Marroquin, Masters Degree in GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

"All we (America) need is a draw so I think we got it. They're gonna be hungry after the last game. I picked Germany to win it all, but I think we're gonna take it."

— Bradley Tirador, Exercise Science, 5th year

Our View

When it comes to the World Cup, the Daily 49er is split almost evenly between the United States and Mexico. Living in the States should give us a natural bias toward our home team, but somehow we just aren't the impression that the U.S. team has much of a chance.

Everyone likes an under dog…but the United States may be a little too much of a long shot. On the other hand, FIFA fans are on the edge of their seats watching Mexico play better than any of us can remember in the World Cup.

The U.S. team currently has two games under its belt. We beat Ghana by one point on June 16, and we tied with Portugal on June 22. Thursday, June 26, the United States will play Germany, and we aren't exactly holding our breath for a win on that match.

Mexico also stands at one win and one tie, and will play again on June 29 against the Netherlands. BuzzFeed Sports reported that "massive fights [broke] out between Mexico and Croatia World Cup fans" sometime during the game on Monday, which hasn't been the only occurrence of this kind.

We would like to think that U.S. fans would refrain from such behavior, and we think a pretty commonplace lack of interest in soccer across our country will make sure that we do.

It's probably too early for anyone to call the overall champ of this year's World Cup, but we think it is probably good enough timing for us to put money on the fact that the United States will not be that team. Mexico's team may be a safer bet.

Either way, we hope to see some clean games, free from any more literal biting and scratching and fouls. Good luck to both teams.

"Mexico's performance has been great. My favorite team player would be Herrera, Hector Herrera. From the US it would be the keeper."

—Rogelio Flores, Masters Degree in GIS (Geographic Information Systems)

"Mexico is playing really, really good. USA, I never thought they would actually win their first game. They scored a goal within the first minute which was pretty impressive."

— Kareem Altamimi, Machatronics Engineering, 3rd year

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U.S. Must Rescind Support for Maliki Government

By Michael Wood
Opinions Assistant

Within the past month, sectarian tensions have flared up in Iraq. The scale of the attacks, perpetrated by ISIS, the terrorist Sunni group has stunned people around the world, bringing the Iraqi question into the forefront of our minds once again. What happened to this country that seemed to have resolved its sectarian conflict in part after a bloody civil war? How could Iraq end up back at square one again?

Simply put, Iraq was never destined to be the country that we knew it as. The haphazardly drawn borders put in place after the British seizure of the territory in the early 20th century did not allow for a hazard-free existence. With Shi'ites and Sunnis, Arabs and Kurds all mixed into the same country that they did not create, and for which they did not draw the borders, discontent is a guarantee. Combine that with poverty, corruption and the American war against Saddam Hussein, and you get a perfect mixture for the brutal civil war that is erupting there, yet again.

It is difficult to assess blame in a situation such as this. With a variety of historical factors and recent events that can implicate anyone from Bashar Al-Assad to the United States Armed Forces, one must be careful not to blame anyone in particular for this crisis without just cause. However, it seems clear that whether or not he is deserving of the blame, Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki is receiving much of it and it would be wise for him to step down. Accusations of cronyism, corruption and a sectarian government that puts the interests of the Shia majority ahead of the Sunni minority have made Maliki an unpopular figure even with the United States government, which has been more than reluctant to continue its military operations in Iraq in any significant manner.

To put it simply, Maliki must go. Currently, he is holding onto power, hoping that this current crisis will blow over and that ISIS will be defeated through sheer military force. In Syria, where ISIS truly began to flex its muscle, we know that military tactics did not defeat them. Every atrocity and attack by Assad's forces on ISIS and the Free Syrian Army only helped to strengthen the fervor that drives ISIS recruitment. Maliki's troops have abandoned him on the frontlines, so he has taken advantage of a Shia majority that has organized itself into militias in order to defend Iraq. It is apparent, though, that these forces are not under the control of Maliki, and that it is a very slippery slope from military action to full-out civil war and terrorism when leaders are not in control of their fighters. Again, we learned this from the civil war raging in Syria.

Frankly, this is a turning point in the conflict. When Assad was faced with a similar problem in the early days of 2011, he did not take the opportunity to step down and establish a unity government made up of all the different ethnic and religious groups. Three years later, over 100,000 people are dead in the Syrian conflict and many more have been made into refugees, straining the government of Lebanon. With chemical warfare, improvised explosive devices and brutal block-by-block fighting in the cities, nobody is hoping for a similar fate in Iraq.

If Maliki were to step down, though, the United States must do its part and make their position clear. The Obama administration has already demonstrated its ambivalence about the situation, refusing the Maliki government US airstrikes in the hopes of avoiding an inflammation of the conflict. But the introduction of hundreds of US troops to the front lines and the center of Baghdad are providing a modicum of support to the Maliki government. This is untenable in the long-run, the United States must make it clear that if Iraq is to survive this crisis, Maliki must be a true statesman and step down for the good of his country.

Starbucksw brews a new model for eduction

By Jovanna Madrigal
Opinions Assistant

Last Monday, Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz announced that his company would pay for its workers, including those who only work 20 hours per week, to earn their bachelor's degree online through Arizona State University's online program. Starbucks, which, according to the New York Times is the first company to go where no other has gone, is reinventing the traditional school model for the better.

The opportunity given to Starbucks employees to earn their bachelor's degree online, almost free of cost, is a step forward for educational opportunity.

According to The New York Times, being a minimum wage employer, Starbucks has always done "unusual" things, such as providing health insurance and stock options even for those working part time.

The program is open to any of its 135,000 US employees and only requires them to work 20 hours per week to be eligible. Employees must also have the grades and test scores to comply with admission requirements for Arizona State, stated The New York Times.

According Deseret News, "Students beginning as freshman in the program will see a greatly reduced tuition cost for their four year degree, whereas juniors and seniors will likely receive their last one to two years completely free."

Deseret News reported that Schultz stated that there is "no doubt that the inequality" in the country has left many Americans behind. He questioned whether we should remain dormant to the situation or take action.

Shultz claimed that this program was not being used as a PR move, and said he couldn't care less about marketing. According to Forbes, Schultz stated, "This is about the future of our company doing what's right for our people, and also, sending a message to the country that we can't build a great company, and we can't build a great, enduring country if we're constantly leaving people behind."

Starbucks has started an innovative way for students to pursue their college education. Although online courses have always been offered here at Cal State Long Beach, it would be interesting to see how students on our own campus would benefit from such a program. This would greatly benefit students in the whole CSU system, and could possibly help remedy the issue of bottleneck courses.

According to Forbes, ASU's online program is "one of the largest in the country." The program has over 11, 000 students enrolled, which includes 6,700 undergraduates.

"The program is a profitable one for the university because of the lack of infrastructure requirements and the ease with which professors can teach more students," Forbes reported.

Schultz knows that, by providing this program, employees will naturally leave their Starbucks position with a degree in hand. He acknowledged that, by doing this, he believes that their experience would be "accreted" to Starbucks, according to The New York Times. Schultz believes that this program will attract and retain better people for the job.

Enrollment for the online course will begin on August 15, with classes starting on October 15.

Starbucks higher-ups have taken a bold leap forward by offering to help fund employees' educations. The company is not just speaking about it making change – it is taking immediate action. It is difficult to tell where this program might take the coffee franchise, but in terms of having minds and money in the right place, there's no doubt about Starbucks.

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Workaholics actor to visit Long Beach

The Daily 49er sits down with stand-up comedian Erik Griffin.

By Josh Bentrem
Media Manager

Best known for his work on "Workaholics" as Montez Walker, stand-up comedian Erik Griffin is now making his way down the 710 freeway to crack you up.

Griffin, a Los Angeles native, will visit the Laugh Factory in Downtown Long Beach on Thursday, June 26. He has done a number of shows in Hollywood this month.

In his sets, Griffin brings to life the oddities of ordinary life, which leaves you dying of laughter and thinking, "That is exactly my life!"

This won't be the first time the "Workaholics" actor has made his way to a stage in Long Beach, but he explained that he looks forward to bringing his stand-up to the younger generation, who may be more familiar with his role on the popular Comedy Central show.

In speaking about his own stand-up, he explains his style and what he enjoys about it. "For me, my material is very organic, so even if I say something a couple of times, I might just keep adding to it till it turns into something."



Emily Higgins | Laugh Factory

Erik Griffin performs at the Laugh Factory in Hollywood on Tuesday, June 3.

Q. Are you familiar with the Long Beach area?

EG: I've been to the aquarium… When I first started coming up like in 2003 they had a comedy club at the Queen Mary. I like the area.

Q. Obviously with "Workaholics" is a lot of the fan base college students?

EG: I would say new fans... Which is a different kind of comedy fan.

Q. Did you start up doing stand up?

EG: Yeah, I was always into stand up, for a long time.

Q. Do you like stand-up better or do you like doing shows?

EG: I wouldn't want to choose. They are both good in their own way.

Q. What do you like best about stand-up?

EG: It's instant gratification. You get all these people from different walks of life and they are in a room together and making them have a communal experience … To me, that is pretty amazing. They are all collectively laughing at one thing.

Q. I almost feel like you paid the [heckler] in the back!

EG: That's just something you deal with.

Q. No, but the fact that you just went straight to town on him.

EG: The thing is that we don't like it, at all. So we want to make sure everyone else is having a good time, so you try to make it fun, but it's not fun. The guy is harmless. When you are in a club environment and we tell you to drink we have to understand that that's going to happen. So it's a fine line.

Q. I'm a bar tender so I know what that's like.

EG: That's what I mean you have to deal with it [appropriately], you can't be 'why you acting like an a--hole'!

Q: Being the sober guy and dealing with drunk people is tough.

EG: You telling me, I never drink.

Q. I've never been drunk.

EG: Me neither!

Q. You're in that social atmosphere so you have to be able to shoot from the hip with people like that I'm sure… So what do you like about the work you have done on "Workaholics"?

EG: It's a fun show. We say and do some really outlandish things. So that's what is fun about it. Then it also introduces me to a fan base… because there is a generation gap. Now I have young fans because of the show. They might be my fans for many years, you know what I mean, when they start having money.

Q. That's when it starts working!

EG: Yeah, maybe they'll be like that's that dude from that show that I used to love.

Q. What's it like being on set on a show like that?

EG: First of all, being on any set is the worst … Long days, but those people make it really fun. I like hanging out with the girls on the set Jillian [Bell] and Maribeth [Monroe]. It's a great working environment.

Q. What do you like most about living in Los Angeles?

EG: I don't know what it would be like to live anywhere else because I have lived here my whole life. Obviously I love it, but I travel a lot doing stand up. I don't know if I'll ever move or leave here.

The Laugh Factory is located on Pine and Shoreline Drive. The show starts at 8 p.m. and entrance for students is only $10 with a student identification card. Do yourself a favor, and don't miss this hilarious comedian taking the stage right in our own backyard.

Warped Tour celebrates 20th anniversary

The tour featured more than 30 bands and artists at the Fairplex.

By Priscella Vega
Print Director

If there's a music festival that encourages activism, fan-interaction and free giveaways with an underlying love and passion for music, it's the Vans Warped Tour.

The annual traveling music festival stopped at the Fairplex in Pomona for its seventh date out of 42 stops throughout North America.

This summer the tour celebrated its 20th anniversary and showcased a tent that illustrated its history. The tent, "Decades: Warped Since 1995 – Through the Lens of Lisa Johnson Rock Photographer," had a collage of concert photographs featuring artists like Eminem, Tim Armstrong of Rancid, Pennywise, Paramore, Katy Perry, Deftones and others.

One of the evident traits of the tour was the evolution in music throughout the years. In the early '90s, the tour had bands like Green Day and Bad Religion perform who later gained stardom in mainstream music. While the tour continues to cater popular mainstream acts, it has also expanded its genres and covers a plethora of genres.

Despite the scorching heat at the Fairplex, thousands of music fans poured into the fairgrounds. With roughly 40 bands and musicians performing throughout the day, majority of fans first headed toward the giant, inflatable schedule blimp to jot down set times. Others perused through tents, receiving free stickers, bracelets, posters and candy.

Some tents, like the Warheads Tent, offered photo opportunities for attendees who could guess how much candy was in mascot Wally Warheads' head. A pool-sized foam pit was placed in the center of the tent designed to capture fans in a mid-jump photo.

The tour offered a myriad of bands, fun activities and ways to stay hydrated, it offered a little bit of everything even for parents who were dragged along by their children.

A beer garden was available to guests aged 21 years and older. Slip'N Slide was one of the many alternative ways for fans to stay hydrated, and a variety of food was sold. There was even a cellphone-charging station.

Warped Tour veteran acts like Yellowcard and Less Than Jake noted the tour's anniversary and the crowd's enthusiasm. Yellowcard's vocalist, Ryan Key, said that in his teenage years, Warped Tour featured some of his favorite and inspirational bands and that he was glad to see the festival continuing to thrive.

Less Than Jake's guitarist and vocalist, Chris DeMakes, said that the band had collectively performed on Warped Tour for 365 days — an entire year of their life, earning laughter and cheers from the crowd.

Throughout the day, bands consistently applauded the crowd for their energy despite the heat and dust that would arise from the constant dancing and moshing. Others who couldn't handle the heat found refuge underneath tents or sat on the grass, away from the body heat generated from crowds.



Priscella Vega | Daily 49er

Fans crowd the Kia Electric Soul Stage to listen to Story So Far.

As the tour wrapped up, fans raided fences and tents for last-minute giveaways and posters, others mingled on the festival grounds taking in the mess left on the grass and dirt by thousands of festivalgoers.

Despite being covered in layers of dirt, sweat, sunscreen and beer, a majority of fans had a smug smile plastered on their face after a full day of enjoying and experiencing live music.

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INDEX (*CIRCLE APPROPRIATE CLASSIFICATION*)

10. Announcements	31. Internships	50. Apts./ Houses Wanted
11. Organizations	32. English Tutoring	52. Roommates Wanted
12. Typing	33. Tutor Needed	54. Apts. for Rent
15. Volunteers	34. Pets	56. Houses for Rent
18. Insurance	35. Employment Opport.	57. Rooms for Rent
20. Travel	36. Auditions	58. Condos for Rent
25. Lost	39. Jobs Wanted	59. Condos for Sale
26. Found	40. Misc for Sale	60. Houses for Sale
27. Legal Services	41. Computers for Sale	79. Motorcycles
28. Child Care	43. Music Lessons	84. Used Cars for Sale
30. School & Instruction	46. Boats	88. Used Cars Wanted

Month:

AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.
DEC.		JAN.		FEB.		MAR.
APR.		MAY		JUNE		JULY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

A new decision for Lebron

After losing to the San Antionio Spurs in the NBA Finals, Lebron James has decided to opt-out of his contract and become a free agent.

By Anita Wang
Sports Editor

Basketball has always been a hot topic for this busy community with the 16-time champion Lakers to boast about, a geographic region that is known to produce some of the best players in the nation, and now a rising Clippers team to bring even more pride to the city of Los Angeles. But perhaps the biggest buzz in basketball news around the globe is LeBron James's decision to opt out of his contract with the Miami Heat, and what his next move will be.

James is arguably the best, if not one of the best, players in the nation and has become a hot commodity the second the news of him becoming a free agent broke out. Any team would benefit from James's leadership, basketball IQ and impeccable skills on both offense and defense. But where will he make his new home?

There has been a handful of teams in the mix. Here are some thoughts on the possibility of these teams becoming his new stomping ground. Whatever James decides to do, wherever he goes, noise and success will follow.

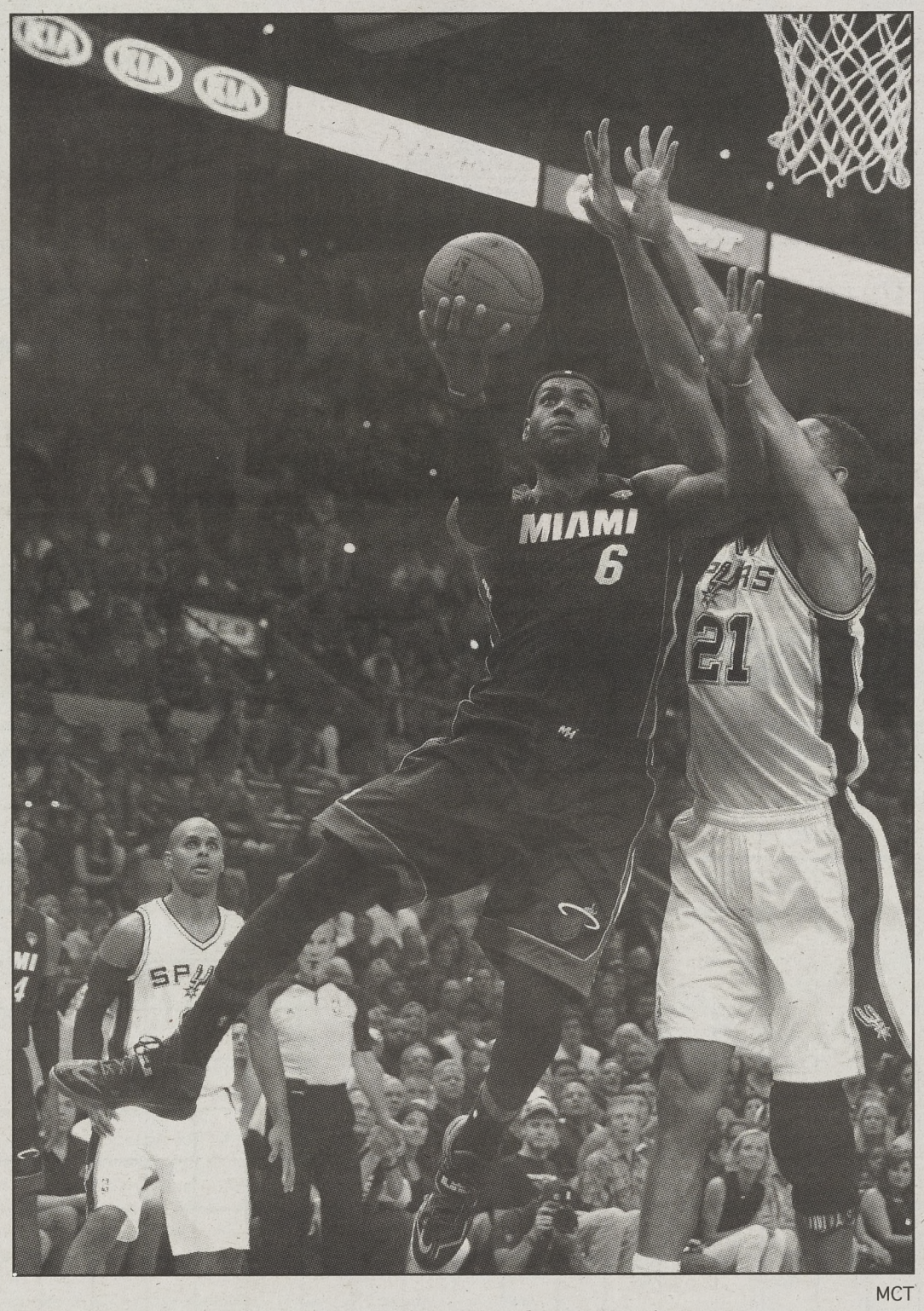
Miami Heat

James can earn the most moola in Miami, but given that he makes the most endorsement money in the league, a high-paying contract doesn't seem to matter much.

According to a report on ESPN, he wants head coach Pat Riley to improve the roster. Maybe obtain a solid center because Chris Bosh has not been as effective in that spot as he could being solely a power forward. And of course, younger players to bring energy and pick up the defense would lift some weight off James' shoulders so he doesn't have to be Mr. Do-It-All.

Former Long Beach State player James Ennis has been highly anticipated to join the Heat's roster after leading his Australian league team to a championship title as the MVP.

Although James, Bosh and Dwayne Wade were given the moniker the Big Three, Bosh and Wade need to step up and show people the dream team they were supposed to be. Wade is completely capable of putting up numbers and changing the entire game, and has done so many times, but has been inconsistent, especially when most needed (as seen during the Finals). Bosh just needs to stop playing like a girl.



MCT

Lebron James attempts a drive to the basket against the San Antonio Spurs.

L.A. Clippers

He fits right into the scheme. A fast-paced player in a fast-paced team. The Clips are taking the team to the next level as Chris Paul and Blake Griffin have consistently made their team a worthy contender. Although they aren't known for their playoff experience or bare any championships, these two All-Stars seem to have found their home and look to continue building this franchise along with their strong role players.

Having acquired players like veteran Caron Butler and former NBA Finals MVP Chauncey Billups, and currently fostering one of the best centers in the league, there is no doubt this team has become a desirable one to play for.

It is no surprise that the Clippers are a powerhouse, and LeBron would no doubt improve their defense. But this deal might cause the biggest imbalance in NBA history that it just wouldn't be fair. This might bring about a moment similar to former Commissioner David Stern restricting Paul to play for the Lakers. Either way, Angelenos would love this deal, but James' stance on the whole Donald Sterling issue most likely won't land him here.

Chicago Bulls

One of the most popular teams in history, the Bulls could offer a great fan base. Merchandise sales would go up the roof, but let's stick to what's important.

James had to do so much both offensively and defensively in the last season. With the Bulls' defense, hunger for a championship and good coaching, it might be convincing enough. Now if only Derrick Rose could stop being so prone to injury.

Cleveland Cavaliers

The Cavs not only finished with a 33-49 record, but they also don't have enough players James would fare well with. He's going to need more than Kyrie Irving. Unless David Blatt can crank out some cash and obtain an effective, well-rounded roster, this would probably be the most unappealing option for James.

Plus, don't think the fans who burned his jersey and ridiculed him all year would be very happy. But then again, we're talking about LeBron James. Maybe they'll be more receptive this time.

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